

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 AID-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1795
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3214

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NU, CS
SUBJ: NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 3153 (B) SAN JOSE 3178

1. IN PARALLEL PUBLIC STATEMENTS JULY 27 COSTA RICAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERIOR BOTH NOTED THAT THE GOCR WOULD NEITHER TOLERATE SUBVERSION BY NOR VIOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM NICARAGUA.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CALDERON EMPHASIZED THAT GOCR ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS NICARAGUANS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY IMPARTIAL, AN ASSERTION PROVEN BY THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FROM BOTH SIDES: FROM SANDINISTAS WHO BELIEVE THE GOCR TOO SUPPORTIVE OF THE SOMOZA REGIME AND FROM OFFIRIAL-LINE MEDIA IN MANAGUA WHICH INSIST THAT THE COQTA RICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TOO PERMISSIVE OF FSLN ACTIVITIES. CALDERON SUGGESTED THAT THESE CONTRADICTORY CLAIMS DEMONSTRATE THAT COSTA RIQA IS SUCCESSFULLY PURSUING THE DUAL POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION AND EFFORTS TO PREVENT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES ON THE ONE HAND, AND OF SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ASYLUM ON THE OTHER. HEECITED AS EXAMPLES THE JULY 26 GRANTING OF POLITICAL ASYLUM TO FOUR NICARAGUANS AND THE REQUEST FOR SAFE CONDUCT FOR A FIFTH IN THE COSTA RICAN
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EMBASSY IN MANAGUA AND, ONCE AGAIN, THE LATE JUNE CAPTURE AND EXPULSION OF 14 SANDINISTAS.

3. AS PART OF A MORE GENERAL SPEECH ON THE THEME OF LAW AND ORDER, INTERIOR MINISTER ECHEVERRIA, WHILE NOT MENTIONING NICARAGUA BY NAME, DECLARED THAT COSTA RICA WOULD CONTINUE TO GUARANGEE THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM, BUT NONETHELESS WOULD NOT

ALLOW THOSE WHO HAD BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM TO ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF
SUBVERSION OR INDEED ANY KIND OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ECHEVERRIA'S ADDRESS ALSO HAD A WIDER, POLITICAL
PURPOSE (WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY), BOTH HIS AND
CALDERON'S COMMENTS APPEAR TO BE A PART OF A CONCERTED GOCR
EFFORT TO REITERATE TO THE GON THAT IT WILL SEEK TO LIMIT FSLN
ACTIVITY WITHIN COSTA RICA.
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